

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

31 MAR. 1962

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~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

a. Phoumi, viewing US policy as aimed at replacing him, is taking steps to make it possible for Laos to resist American pressures. The cabinet has approved belt-tightening economic measures [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Foreseeing the possibility of a full break with the US, closer relations are being sought with France, although the French have again told the Laotians they support a Souvanna solution. Delegations are to be sent to Europe and Southeast Asia to seek aid, and diplomatic missions have already received preliminary instructions on approaches to be made. [REDACTED]

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b. Sarit is still publicly backing US policy on Laos [REDACTED]

2. Argentina

a. Meetings of Peronista leaders in Montevideo and Buenos Aires suggest that the Peronista high command is planning to oppose repressive measures by the military, even at the cost of civil war. Reportedly they have received arms and plan to move by 1 May.

b. Guido, now in the presidency with the reported agreement of Frondizi, has agreed to submit to Congress laws to proscribe totalitarian parties (Peronistas and Communists), and to so modify the basic labor law as to strip political power from the Peronista General Confederation of Labor. Frondizi's party, which controls Congress, is 50X1 favoring Guido's finishing 50X1 Frondizi's term in preference to having new elections.

c. The Brazilian attitude on relations with the new Argentine regime is somewhat ambivalent. The government has announced that it interprets Guido's succession to office as legal, while Foreign Minister Dantas has declared that a decision now on the question of recognition would be premature.

3. Berlin Access

a. Soviet flights scheduled for yesterday were cancelled and none were scheduled for today. Flight activity in the corridors for the past two weeks suggests that Moscow is satisfied with the limited gains to date and plans no major new moves on air access at present.

b. The Soviets appear to be concentrating their efforts on Western ground access and Military Liaison Missions, which may become the object of new moves in the near future.

4. France-Algeria

[redacted] OAS activity in Oran and Algiers to continue until the leaders around Salan are liquidated. The OAS has shifted to hit-and-run terrorism and sabotage which will be more difficult to handle than direct attacks. Assassination attempts against the provisional executive may occur.

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5. West New Guinea

a. Ambassador Malik wants Sukarno to continue the talks and feels Sukarno's "no progress" statement--with which he disagrees--resulted from pressure from the left.

b. Dutch Foreign Minister Luns told Ambassador Rice on 28 March that the Dutch would fight if necessary to keep their pledge to the Papuans of an opportunity to express a choice before being transferred to Indonesia.

c. [redacted] Indonesian reconnaissance and infiltration operations were to continue at least through yesterday.

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6. Syria

The military junta that took charge this week may change abruptly in the near future. Senior conservative officers remain as spokesmen for the regime, but the failure to give important roles to the radical leftist officers whose pressures forced the takeover may cause them to try to seize control 50X1 for themselves.

7. India

c. India, although interested in a Communist Chinese proposal to recognize India's claims to part of Ladakh and give it use of a road there, is taking a hard line at present as it believes its bargaining position on the boundary dispute is improving because of Peiping's desire to clean up its reputation in Asia.

8. Ecuador prepares to
break with Cuba

Arosemena has asked non-Communist leaders to organize anti-Cuban demonstrations in order that final action will not appear to be in response to recent military demands. Six political parties plan to demand a break and Arosemena has called for a plebiscite on the issue. The announced resignation of the cabinet was apparently for the purpose of getting rid of the three members who oppose the break.

NOTES

- A. The governor of Brazil's Guanabara state has expropriated the Canadian-owned Rio de Janeiro telephone system.

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- C. The various factions of the Algerian leadership are experiencing some initial problems in establishing their pecking order--as between military and civilian, and between contending civilians.
- D. Havana radio has a lot to say about the issues behind the trial of the invasion prisoners, but little news about the trial itself has leaked through. According to the broadcasts the prisoners have been divided into three categories for sentencing - execution, penal labor, political indoctrination.
- E. Greek Foreign Minister Averoff expects the USSR to step up its propaganda attacks against Greece which may reach a peak during the May NATO meeting in Athens, which is already the subject of Bloc complaints.

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